

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claim 18 and add new claims 21-23.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding ribonuclease L (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said nucleic acid molecule encoding ribonuclease L protein and inhibits the expression of ribonuclease L.

Claim 2 (original) The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

Claim 5 (original) The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

Claim 6 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

Claim 7 (original) The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

Claim 8 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

Claim 9 (**original**) The compound of claim 8 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

Claim 10 (**original**) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

Claim 11 (**previously presented**) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase portion of a preferred target region on a nucleic acid molecule encoding ribonuclease L (SEQ ID NO:3).

Claim 12 (**original**) A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 13 (**original**) The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claim 14 (**original**) The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 15 (**original**) A method of inhibiting the expression of ribonuclease L in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of ribonuclease L protein is inhibited.

Claims 16 (**original**) A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with ribonuclease L comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of ribonuclease L is inhibited.

Claim 17 (**original**) The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition results from an infection.

Claim 18 (**currently amended**) The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition [disorder] arises from aberrant apoptosis.

Claim 19 (**original**) The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is cancer.

Claim 20 (**original**) A method of modulating the process of RNA-mediated interference (RNAi) in a cell or animal comprising administering to said cell or animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of ribonuclease L is inhibited.

Claim 21 (**new**) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of ribonuclease L at least 60%.

Claim 22 (**new**) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of ribonuclease L by 80% or more.

Claim 23 (**new**) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of ribonuclease L by 90% or more.